

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16 : (Canceled)

Claim 17 : (New) A machine for performing medical analyses on samples in containers, comprising:

a plurality of modules, each module having a pair of side walls, a pair of openings through the side walls, a conveyor for conveying a respective container through the openings among the modules, and a robotic arm for moving and acting on a respective sample; and

means for moving the modules relative to one another, including a first guide and a first roller on one of the side walls of each module, and a second guide and a second roller on the other of the side walls of each module, the first guide and the first roller on one of the modules being in respective reciprocal rolling engagement with the second roller and the second guide on an adjacent one of the modules.

Claim 18 : (New) The machine of claim 17, wherein each roller has a circumferential groove, and wherein each guide is a flat strip slidably received in a respective groove.

Claim 19 : (New) The machine of claim 17, wherein each robotic arm has a pair of tongs, and wherein each robotic arm has multiple freedoms of movement.

Claim 20 : (New) The machine of claim 17, and a pair of doors mounted on each module to overlie and close the openings, and wherein the doors are removable to open the openings.

Claim 21 : (New) The machine of claim 17, wherein each conveyor includes an endless belt mounted on a pair of conveyor rollers.

Claim 22 : (New) The machine of claim 17, wherein each module has a plurality of shelves and a lifting device for moving a respective container between one of the shelves and the respective conveyor.

Claim 23 : (New) The machine of claim 17, wherein each module has a keyboard for manual entry of analysis instructions, and a display monitor.

Claim 24 : (New) The machine of claim 17, wherein each conveyor is mounted in a common horizontal plane.